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THE death is announced in his seventy-second year of Mr. George Newlyn, formerly connected with the Kew Botanical Garden and a writer in popular science.

M. F. P. J. GUÉGUEN, late professor of botany in the School of Agriculture at Grignon, has died at the age of forty-three years.

DR. JIORDANO, professor in the University of Palermo, known for his work on the diseases of miners, died on July 10.

DR. ALFRED SCHLIZ, the German anthropologist, has died at Heilbrun, at the age of sixty-six years.

FOLLOWING out the provisions of the late Mrs. Keenan, who left \$300,000 to establish and maintain a free medical dispensary in Milwaukee, a meeting is soon to be held between the trustees of the fund and the city health department to work out the arrangements as contemplated in the will.

DURING the present summer the regents of the University of New Mexico have instituted a survey of the lands in the university state endowment, of which there are nearly 300,000 acres still owned by the university. Charles T. Kirk, of the New Mexico Natural Resources Survey, and John D. Clark, of the department of chemistry at the University of New Mexico, have been placed in charge of the work.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

DR. EDGAR NELSON TRANSEAU, now a professor in the Southwestern Normal School, Charleston, Ill., goes to Ohio State University next year as professor of plant physiology.

PROFESSOR ROY H. PORTER, of Iowa State College, has become head of the department of mechanical engineering at the New Hampshire College to succeed Professor Richard E. Chandler resigned. Professor Porter took his B.S. degree in mechanical engineering at the University of Maine in 1906 and the degree of mechanical engineer at Iowa State College in 1912. He has been instructor in mechanical engineering at Iowa State College, was made assistant professor there in 1908 and associate professor in 1913.

AT Bryn Mawr College Dr. Frederick H. Getman, associate professor of chemistry, has

resigned, and Dr. James Llewellyn Crenshaw has been appointed associate in physical chemistry. Dr. Crenshaw has been instructor in chemistry in Centre College and in Princeton University. From 1911 to 1915 he has been research assistant in chemistry in the Carnegie Institution of Washington.

DR. P. H. RÖMER, director of the Institute of Hygiene at Greifswald, has been called to Halle as successor to Professor Fränken.

PROFESSOR HARRIES, of Kiel, director of the chemical laboratory, has declined a call to Göttingen.

DR. KONRAD PICHORIUS, professor of ancient history at Breslau, has been appointed professor at Bonn, as successor to Professor Ulrich Wilcken.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

##### ELEMENTARY MECHANICS

THE letter of Professors Franklin and MacNutt<sup>1</sup> is a helpful contribution to the discussion of the laws of motion. I wish especially to endorse their remarks upon the law of action and reaction. The idea that action and reaction, because equal and opposite, are balanced forces, is responsible for more confusion, perhaps, than any other error connected with the laws of dynamics. An instance of this occurs in a comparatively recent article in which the author assumes that a body acted upon by an unbalanced force must be retarded by an equal and opposite "ether-friction" in order to satisfy the law of action and reaction; forgetting that if such were the case the force would really be balanced and the body would have no acceleration. The explanations given by Professors Franklin and MacNutt of the second law of motion and of popular and scientific usage regarding the terms mass and weight are also, in the main, calculated to promote clear thinking about these matters. That "the result of weighing a body on a balance scale" is a proper measure of "amount of material," however, certainly requires explanation to the beginner.

The writers apparently attribute to me some

<sup>1</sup> SCIENCE, July 9, 1915, p. 56.